

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 20 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 18 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to Figure 8, at block **804**, a node enabled to receive a Bulk Release message responds to the receipt of a BULK RELEASE message from a connected peer node by both clearing specific connections at the node, and building a BULK RELEASE COMPLETE message for those connections in succeeding acts. At block **808**, for each List record in the received BULK RELEASE message, the node clears the connection in a loop that includes block **808**, block **812**, and block **816**, and that iterates once through the loop for each connection. Each connection is preferably identified by the content of the Call Reference Value Field **334i** in the List record. Each record contains data for a distinct connection to be cleared as taught with reference to Figures 3 and 5. At block **812**, the BRC message record **428i** is prepared for the connection being iterated, by setting each of the fields in the payload **406** taught with reference to Figure 4, specifically the Call Reference Length field **432i**, the Call Reference Value field **434i**, the Cause Location field **436a**, and the Cause Value field **438a**. At block **816**, the prepared BRC message record List **428i** is appended to the payload **406**. At block **820**, the method illustrated with respect to blocks **808**, **812**, and **816** is repeated for a new connection, until each connection has been cleared and a List has been prepared and appended to the payload **806** for each cleared (or to be cleared, depending upon the embodiment) connection, and the prepared for connection to be cleared by the BULKBLOCK RELEASE COMPLETE message.